

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-38 are pending in the present application. Non-elected claims 4, 7 and 10-34 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this reply, new claims 35-38 have been added and claim 6 has been cancelled. Among the elected claims, claims 1 and 5 are independent claims.

35 USC §103 Rejection

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-9 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' disclosed related art¹ in view of Ogawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,632,514). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner relies on Applicants' disclosed related art Figs. 1 and 2 for teaching a base substrate 15 having a transmissive portion and a reflective portion. The Examiner correctly acknowledges that Applicants' disclosed related art does not teach the transmissive portion having a groove. To overcome this deficiency, the Examiner relies on Ogawa et al. and states that Ogawa et al. teaches a base substrate (color filter substrate 2b) having a groove (terraces) in Fig. 16 and a black matrix (9) on a base substrate (color filter substrate 2a) with a color filter layer (4) in Fig. 27 (see page 3, lines 1-5 of the Office Action). The Examiner asserts that Applicants' disclosed related art can be modified to provide a groove in the substrate with a color filter on a black matrix as taught in Ogawa et al. because Applicants' disclosed related art and Ogawa et al. are from the same field of endeavor.

¹ It is uncertain whether Applicants' disclosed related art qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and thus under § 103. Nevertheless, Applicants will address the rejections assuming that it is for the sake of the argument.

First of all, Applicants respectfully submit that Ogawa et al. is not combinable with Applicants' disclosed related art. As described in the Background section of the specification of the present application, Applicants' disclosed related art is directed to a transflective liquid crystal display device, but Ogawa et al. is directed to a transmissive liquid crystal display device. These two types are structurally and functional different and thus cannot be combined as suggested by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Ogawa et al.'s device shown in Fig. 16 and Ogawa et al.'s device shown in Fig. 27 are different embodiments and there is no teaching that such devices are combinable. Particularly, Fig. 16 of Ogawa et al. teaches a base substrate having multiple grooves to provide R, G and B color filters therein. On the other hand, the device of Fig. 27 discloses a base substrate 2a having no groove but having a black resin 9 and color filters 4. Neither the device of Fig. 16 nor the device of Fig. 27 in Ogawa et al. discloses the use of separate portions (transmissive and reflective portions) at the base substrate. Therefore, no single display device in Ogawa et al. discloses or suggests a base substrate having a groove in the transmissive portion of the base substrate, a black matrix on *that* base substrate, and a color filter on *that* black matrix and on *that* base substrate, as required by independent claims 1 and 5.

In the alternative, each of Ogawa et al.'s R, G and B color filters does not have a transmissive portion and a reflective portion of different thickness. In clear contrast, Applicant's embodied invention provides that each of the R, G and B color filters has both the transmissive portion and the reflective portion, wherein the transmissive portion has a thickness greater than the thickness of the reflective portion. This feature, which is clearly reflected in each of independent claims 1 and 5 as now amended, is completely absent from Ogawa et al.

Thus, even if the references are combinable, assuming *arguendo*, the combination of references as suggested by the Examiner would still fail to teach or suggest the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 5 and their dependent claims due to their dependency. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

New Claims

Dependent claims 35-38 further emphasize the distinguishing features of Applicants' invention over the applied references. For example, these claims emphasize Applicants' feature that the transmissive portion of the base substrate has a single groove of uniform thickness.

Conclusion

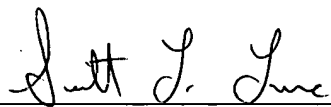
For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #41,455
James T. Eller, Jr., #39,538

JTE/EHC/mlr
3430-0173P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000